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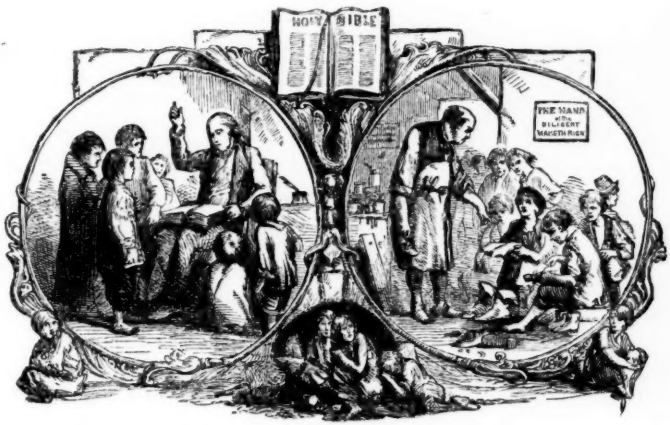
NEW SERIES.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

No. 2. FEBRUARY, 1874. Vol. I.



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PRICE TWOPENCE.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The thanks of the Committee are presented to Mrs. Gore, for large parcel of flannel petticoats; to Anonymous, for parcel of left-off clothes; to the Misses Cust, for large parcel of new clothing for boys and girls; to Miss Steedman, for parcel containing forty-eight flannel petticoats, six shirts, and parcel of "Band of Hope;" to Miss Hadfield, for parcel of left-off clothing; to Mrs. J. Riddell, for parcel of clothing; to Miss Ripley, for parcel of odd papers, books, and clothes; to Mrs. Lingham and Miss Souter, for parcel of new clothing containing fifteen articles; to Anonymous, for parcel of men's left-off clothing; to Miss Bodkin, for parcel of material for clothing, for Lamb and Flag Schools; to Mrs. Reade, for monthly parcel of new clothing.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED WITH THANKS.—Mr. J. Edmunds; Mr. T. Brooker; An Old Ragged School Teacher; Mr. J. Groom; Ella; Miss Whitehouse; Mr. Parfitt; Miss Ellis.

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*** Earl Russell communicated to the College of Physicians that he had received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Manilla, to the effect that Cholera has been raging fearfully, and that the ONLY remedy of any service was CHLORODYNE."—See *Lancet*, 1st December, 1864.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS MUCH NEEDED.

C. BLUNT, *Hon. Sec.*

CRIPPLES' HOME, 17A, MARYLEBONE ROAD.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

THE Committee of the Sunday School Union are arranging for a

Convention of Sunday School Teachers of all Denominations from all parts of London,

To be held on the Afternoons and Evenings of March 24th, 25th, and 26th, when "PRACTICAL SUBJECTS BEARING UPON SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK" will be considered.

Sunday Schools connected or unconnected with the Sunday School Union are invited to appoint representatives. Applications for Tickets to be made to the Secretaries, 56, Old Bailey. Full particulars of place of meeting, &c., will shortly be issued.

Friendless and Fallen.

London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution.

Census of Cases taken on the 31st December, 1873, showing the relative condition and locality of Birthplace of every inmate then under the care of this Institution.

Total No. of Inmates in the Home 31st December, 1873,		155.
No. of entire orphans	74	
No. fatherless	18	
No. motherless	28	
No. with both parents living	35	
Total		155
No. having accessible homes	38	
No. not having accessible homes	117	
Total		155

BIRTHPLACES OF THE ABOVE.

London—Bermondsey, Bethnal Green, Bloomsbury, Brixton, Chelsea, City, Clerkenwell, Deptford, Fulham, Islington, Kennington, Kensington, Kentish Town, Kingsland, Lambeth, Marylebone, Pimlico, Poplar; St. Andrew's, Holborn; St. Clement's, Strand; St. George's-in-the-East; St. Luke's, E.C.; St. Pancras, Southwark, Walworth, Wandsworth, Westminster, Whitechapel.

Country—Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Devonshire, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Northampton, Northumberland, Oxfordshire, Somersetshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire, Calcutta, Ireland, Scotland, Wales.

SUMMARY.

To Open-all-Night Refuge, 891 admitted in 1873.

To Preventive Homes, 112 ditto.

To Reformatory Homes, 304 ditto.

Income, 1872, £5,924; income, 1873, £5,614; decrease, 1873, £310.

Increased expenses of Homes in 1873, £232.

£12 10s. (Donation of) will sustain all the Homes one day.

Reader, Messrs. Bosanquet, Salt, & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C., and Francis Nicholls, Esq. (of the Committee), 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C., will thankfully receive CONTRIBUTIONS; or

EDWARD W. THOMAS, Secretary,
200, Euston Road, N.W.

RAGGED SCHOOL COAL CLUBS.

It is remarkable to what a number of social operations affecting adults Ragged Schools have given birth. Thus there are Sick Clubs, Dorcas Societies, Burial Clubs, Loan Funds, Barrow Clubs, and last, but not least in its beneficial results, even a *Donkey* Club. These have had a powerful influence upon classes far down on the social ladder; and if Ragged Schools had done nothing more than to socialise such classes they would have performed a task the value of which to society cannot be exaggerated.

The latest plan for the benefit of the poor which has been adopted has already done so much good, even in its incipient state, that we think that we cannot better occupy these pages than by some reference to Ragged School Coal Clubs.

The present high price of fuel, well styled a coal-famine, has been bitterly felt by the poor. Thus, in the winter of 1872-3, as much as two-and-fourpence per hundredweight was charged by the retail dealer. Even now that coals are somewhat reduced in price, one-and-eightpence per hundredweight is the common price. No wonder, then, that we constantly hear in our visits to Ragged Schools that old men and women retire to bed as early as five o'clock in the afternoon for the sake of warmth, as they cannot afford to keep up a fire.

But besides this high price of coals another evil must be adverted to, as it almost solely concerns the poor—we refer to the short weight usually given at coal-sheds. Recently we were told by several women that they never ordered more than half a hundred of coals. When asked why? they replied that if they bought one hundredweight it was sure to be deficient in weight about twenty pounds, but if they ordered a less quantity the weight was more correct, as detection was easier. Some of these evils might indeed be lessened, and extortionate charges or deficient weight be avoided, if the poor had coal-cellars. But, as the bulk occupy one room only, they have no place wherein to store their coals. Thus in clothes-baskets, old boxes, and even under beds, fuel is stored for future use.

These evils were mitigated by some Ragged Schools in the form of the gift of coals at Christmas. Amongst these the follow-

ing deserve "honourable mention," as they only repeated the custom of former years—namely, Brewer's Court, Field Lane, and Old Woolwich Road. But in most cases the applicants were too many to permit more than half a hundred to be given. But small as was the quantity thus given, it served to cheer many a lonely sick one, and to light up many a dreary, dingy garret or kitchen at Christmas-tide.

Yet at best such gifts in winter are but make-shifts. What is really needed is that the thrifty poor should be enabled to help themselves rather than to depend upon charity. This is admirably done by the coal clubs or coal depôts recently established in some Ragged Schools. And though the number is but small—not, we believe, exceeding twenty—yet we trust, now that the scheme is fast becoming a permanent feature in some Ragged Schools, others will speedily follow their example.

Three plans are at present adopted to give our poorer brethren the benefits of cheap fuel. The first is a regular coal club, as at the Ragged Schools in Marigold Place, Bermondsey, and Portobello Road, Notting Hill. Second, the sale of coals at reduced prices, as at Hartshorn Court Ragged School. Third, the retail of coal in small quantities at wholesale prices, as by the Ragged School in Hope Place.

The Coal Club held at Grotto Passage Ragged School, Marylebone, which is under distinct management, was founded in 1869. In the first year there were 50 subscribers; in the second, 85; and at present they number about 100. To interest the ladies of Marylebone in this charity it is required that each depositor be recommended by a subscriber, and reside in Marylebone. A subscriber of five shillings is entitled to one ticket, and a subscriber of one guinea receives five tickets. Each ticket admits one depositor to the club.

The benefit to a depositor is that the club undertakes, for payments made during the summer months, to supply, during the ensuing winter, coals worth considerably more than the amount contributed. Thus, any depositor who subscribes one shilling and eightpence per month during the months of May, June, July, August, September and October, receives twelve hundredweight of the best coals.

The following rules, which were issued last autumn, will supply suggestions to any who may be led to establish a Coal

Club:—1. Any person recommended by a subscriber residing in the parish, who shall subscribe not less than one shilling and eightpence during the months of May, June, July, August, September, and October, shall receive a bonus of four shillings in coals added to the amount subscribed. 2. Subscriptions will be received at the Grotto School, Paddington Street, every Tuesday, commencing the first week in May, between the hours of twelve and one. 3. The card must be taken care of, as a proof that the party is entitled to the benefit he or she claims. 4. If the card be transferred, the money paid upon it will be forfeited.

The first sack of coals is delivered about the middle of November, and the delivery is continued every ten days until the quantity of coals subscribed for has been supplied. To conform to the rules not less than one shilling and eightpence must be paid by the last Thursday in May, three shillings and fourpence by the end of June, five shillings by the end of July, six shillings and eightpence by the end of August, eight shillings and fourpence by the end of September, ten shillings by the end of October. Members allowing either of the above months to pass without having paid the sums specified, have the money they paid returned, but they lose all other benefit. Cards are not entered after the month of May.

The second and more recent scheme for cheapening coals, is that adopted by Hartshorn Court Ragged School, Golden Lane. As this school has premises at command sufficiently large to store fifty tons of coals, the committee have just purchased fifty tons at wholesale prices. These are sold at specified hours at reduced rates to the poor of the district on the nomination of the Bible-women who sell the tickets. The prices charged are as follows:—7lbs. 1d.; 14lbs. 1½d.; 28lbs. 3d. But no one can have more than 56lbs. in any one week. When Lord Shaftesbury heard of this novel scheme of helping the poor to help themselves, he at once sent a donation of £5, saying "I highly approve of your coal fund."

The last plan of turning Ragged Schools into so many coal-sheds is that adopted by Hope Place, Stepney. The coal depôt just opened is supplied with the best coals. Purchased at wholesale prices, they are vended in small quantities at cost price to the deserving poor of the district.

Probably there was never a period in our national history

when the temporal wants of the poor were more cared for. But it did not need the records of the "Charity Organization Society" to prove that, whilst many undeserving persons have been unduly aided, too many of the really industrious have been overlooked. But, managed as are our Coal Clubs—in every case the applicant paying some part of the original cost—we think that this form of charity is less likely to be abused than any other. In a variable climate like this, with its more or less rigid winters, fuel is as much a necessary of life as food. We hope, then, to see other Coal Clubs or coal depôts attached to most of the larger Ragged Schools, for they will tend to promote that spirit of true independence, without which the poor must sink lower and still lower in the social scale, until at length they become either cunning, whining beggars, or spiritless paupers.

MAIDA HILL RAGGED SCHOOL.

THIS, which is one of the very best of the many valuable institutions of its class, was established in 1846 as a Ragged School for boys and girls. On Sunday evenings all the year round there is an attendance of 160, and on Wednesday and Friday evenings in the winter months an attendance of 110; a Girls' Industrial or Sewing Class once a week; an Industrial School for destitute boys, who are employed in printing and paper-bag making; a Refuge for orphan and destitute boys of the neighbourhood, who are admitted free of payment, while a limited number of cases from other parts are also admitted on payment of 5s. per week; and a Dormitory or Lodging-house for young men or boys who have left the Refuge or Industrial School and obtained situations, 1s. per week only being charged for this accommodation. There are in addition a Provident Bank, open to all who attend the schools, and a Library for home reading. Having on a former occasion visited the institution, and thoroughly examined into all the details connected with its working, we can testify to the efficiency attained in all its branches under the able superintendence of Mr. W. Amor. In this—the nursery of all the other branches of the work—he is ably seconded in the girls' department by Miss Bromley, the sister of the late Mr. Bromley, who first commenced these schools. There is very much to encourage both the committee and the teachers in the regular attendance, progress, and good conduct of the children; *but the one great need of these Night Schools is voluntary teachers.*

This institution is conducted in two buildings—the Ragged School in Richmond Street, and the Industrial School in Hatton Street.

Prominent in this general scheme of good is "The Industrial Class and Home." No one who sees these lads busily engaged at their work, and

looking so healthy and happy, can doubt the effect which a kindly discipline and industrial training have over the rough untutored natures of the children gathered up from the streets of London. They are among the most destitute and degraded of their class, yet here their whole being is altered, and they are growing up to be useful in this world and in the hope, let us trust, of a glorious hereafter. They receive a plain education, based on religion, and their educational attainments are of a far higher order than might be expected with such a material to work upon, and such as to induce the Government Inspector to make a most favourable report as the result of his last examination of the boys. That they are willing and industrious workers may be gathered from the fact that the receipts last year from paper-bag making and printing were £888 odd, of which £309 was the surplus beyond the cost of the materials, and available towards the maintenance of the boys.

The immense amount of good that this Maida Hill Institution has effected for destitute boys may be gathered from a summary of the numbers admitted to the Refuge and Industrial Class, and the "disposals" within the last twenty-one years—the length of time they have been established. 442 have had situations found for them in this country, 38 have entered the army, 69 the navy and merchant service, 23 have emigrated, 208 have returned to their friends, obtained situations for themselves, or left of their own accord, and 45 are still in the institution.

The Industrial Class, in which destitute boys living in the neighbourhood obtain all the advantages of the Home during the day, but return to their own homes to sleep, is a peculiar feature of this institution. The average number of boys in the Industrial Class last year was 37, of whom nine slept at their own homes. There have been also on an average nine lads who passed from the Home and Industrial Class into situations, and were allowed to lodge in the Home on payment of a shilling a week. The plan is a great safeguard to them on entering upon situations, and is very much valued by them, for they can thus obtain comfortable sleeping accommodation at a charge proportioned to their humble earnings.

Among other pleasing features of the Home during the past year was that of window-gardening. Five of the boys received prizes to the amount of twenty-six shillings from the North St. Marylebone Committee, for plants grown from seeds kindly supplied to them by Dr. Stewart, who takes a warm interest in the profitable recreation of the lads of the Home.

The industrial department may be greatly helped by a more extended custom, which it really deserves, for the work turned out by these poor lads is of excellent quality, and at fairly remunerative charges. Of this we have a proof in the Annual Report before us, which was printed at the Home, as was also a most interesting little book, written by the master, entitled "Poor Tiny; or, the Power of Kindness." It is a true narrative of a lad who was picked up in a most forlorn and destitute state, and who, having passed through the institution, entered the Royal Navy, in which he served seven years, when, on his return to England, he purchased his discharge and obtained employment on the Great Western Railway, which he has kept for another seven years.

After this digression we may refer, among other modes of help, to a plan suggested by a valued friend at the last annual meeting but one of the institution. It is the saving of waste paper, much of which is thoughtlessly destroyed because it is thought to be of no value, yet the committee are enabled to report that upwards of *forty pounds'* worth of waste paper has been received since the plan was adopted. Mr. Amor supplies the bags for it to be collected in by any one who kindly undertakes the task, and sends for it whenever desired. Benevolent people not overburdened with this world's goods will find this an easy way of helping a charity in which they may be interested.—*The Mirror.*

We record with deep regret the death of one of the first Ragged School teachers at Maida Hill—Mr. Frederick Holloway. At the commencement of the school, April, 1846, when the late Mr. Bromley was the much-loved superintendent, Mr. Holloway took the class of the roughest men and boys. He was never known to be late, and was always three evenings a week at his post for sixteen years. He possessed a wonderful power of gaining their attention by his firm and kind manner, and the deep interest he ever took in them seemed to secure their love, and very many once steeped in crime have blessed God for his instruction. There is one now labouring at one of the most successful Missions at Cow Cross who was, through Mr. Holloway, brought to know his own sinfulness and taught to love his Saviour, and through whose instrumentality hundreds have been brought to love the Lord. A. W.

CENTRAL SHOE-BLACK SOCIETY.

The Ragged Shoe-black Brigades have pursued their useful career, without any intermission, for above twenty-two years, and nearly every year has shown an advance over the year preceding. The number of boys employed in 1872-3 was 384, and their year's earnings formed a gross total of £11,742 7s. 8d. The weekly earnings of each boy was on an average 11s. 9d. The amount at their credit in the banks was £693 8s., which is held for their benefit, and to be employed when the occasion offers for promoting their welfare. Their total earnings in twenty-two years reached the remarkable aggregate of £122,823.

The First Shoe-black Society—the Central—was organised in 1851, and next month it will complete twenty-three years of its history.

The total number of boys employed by the Society since its establishment in 1851, including a few cases of readmission, which are reckoned as separate boys, has been 2,889. Their total earnings have amounted to no less than £42,423 1s. 9d.! The first year 613 boys earned £656. In 1863, 85 earned £3,281.

The number of boys in the Society on the 30th March, 1872, was 91, and since that time 182 have been admitted. Of these 273 boys, 184 have obtained situations or left from various reasons during the year, and 89 remain at work in the Society. The average of boys at work has been 85, and their total earnings during the year has been £3,281 15s. 11d. Of this sum, £1,529 5s. 2d. has been paid to the boys as wages; £880 17s. 6d. has been paid into the boys' banks; and £871 13s. 3d. has been retained by the Society.

During the meeting of the National Rifle Association at Wimbledon, in July, a detachment of the boys was quartered in the Volunteer Camp, together with some of the boys from the North-West London Shoe-black Society and the boys of the Rag Brigade. Their industry and good behaviour were the admiration of every visitor.

The boys are recommended to the Society from the various schools in connection with the Ragged School Union, or from the News Boys' Home, in Gray's Inn Lane. Sixteen Ragged Schools sent boys to the Central Society during the past year.

The Committee in their report for 1872-3 referred to the insufficiency of their present premises, and their desire to find a more commodious house. The very ignorant condition in which most of the boys are found to be on their admission, renders it of the first importance to have an efficient Evening School, where they may receive as much Scriptural and secular instruction as is compatible with the shortness of the time during which they remain in the Society. But, although the managers have the service of an efficient certificated master, it is impossible for the results of the school to be satisfactory while the accommodation is so limited that only half the boys can be under instruction at the same time. They are also very anxious to provide a larger dormitory for such of the boys as are homeless.

After searching in vain for suitable premises, the Committee decided to take a piece of ground near the Farringdon Street station of the Metropolitan Railway, and to erect a plain substantial building suitable for their purpose. Towards this building they have in hand about £1,200, *which has been saved up from the Society's share of the boys' earnings;* but the entire cost, including fittings, will probably amount to nearly £4,000. As the Society has been for many years self-supporting, the Committee have not asked their friends for subscriptions for ordinary expenses. But they now feel it necessary to make an appeal for help towards their new undertaking, which they believe will greatly tend to the religious and temporal benefit of the boys under their care.

In response to this appeal the Committee of the Ragged School Union at their December meeting voted a special grant of £200. This sum will be paid when the building is completed. In this practical form they have shown their sympathy with a movement which, by organising the labour of street-boys attracted into Ragged Schools, has done so much to improve the social condition of a once most friendless and neglected class.

PERSIAN MISSION SCHOOLS.

For about thirty years some American missionaries have been labouring among the Nestorians, the least corrupt of the ancient Christian sects of Persia. As might be expected, they were exposed not only to the persecution of the disciples of Mohammed, but of the priesthood of the apostate Eastern churches. But thanks to the appeals of the British and American Ambassadors to the Shah, this has come to an end; and hence the Shah, in answer to a memorial presented by the Bible Society during his recent visit to England, declared that "persecution on religious grounds is unknown in Persia, and complete toleration exists throughout the country."

It is interesting to know that eight of these earnest missionaries, about four years ago, attended the monthly Prayer Meeting of Field Lane Ragged School, prior to their departure for Persia. They and their work, by their own request, were then specially commended to God by the brethren who led in prayer. And who can tell whether these prayers of Ragged School teachers have not had a large share in the blessing which has marked the labour of these servants of Christ?

There are now, we are glad to indicate, flourishing congregations of Protestants attracted from the Armenian or Nestorian communion by the pure gospel; whilst many priests, and even bishops, of these ancient churches, preach faithfully the grand old doctrine of justification solely by faith.

In thus preaching the gospel to adults, we are glad to learn that children are not overlooked, but rather that they are a large item in the missionary agencies. Thus in the Sunday Schools there are 2,000 scholars of both sexes. In the free Day Schools 1,000 children attend daily, the Bible being as prominent a feature as it is in our Ragged Schools. An aggressive movement has also been lately made, and a Free School for poor Mussulman girls has been opened, with every prospect of success.

Some of these Nestorian Mission Schools partake of the character of the British Refuge—board and lodging being provided as well as

education. Of these, a large proportion are orphans. In most, too, a daily meal is given to the poorest children.

These children of the East, though very acute, are found to be equally docile. The hymns so popular in Ragged Schools are translated into their mother-tongue, and sung to the same favourite tunes. And as they sing them in the streets and at home, they have thereby become little evangelists to parents sunk as much in superstition as in vice.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

Bridge Street Ragged School, West Greenwich.

We will not go into the question whether Services for Children are needed, because it is an admitted fact, and we would therefore merely ask the conductors of Ragged Schools where Services for Children have not been started, Where are your Sunday afternoon scholars on Sunday morning or evening? And we would impress upon all connected with such Sunday Schools the very great necessity of at once starting Services for their Children; and, with a view to aid such in an undertaking of this kind, we venture to give an account of the work as it is carried on at the West Greenwich Ragged School.

In May, 1871, a Sunday Evening Children's Service was started, and has since been carried on in the following manner. The school is opened at six o'clock, when the children begin to arrive, and to keep them quiet and orderly, hymns are sung until half-past six o'clock, when the service is commenced by singing a hymn. A short extempore prayer follows, another hymn is sung, and then a few verses of Scripture are read and explained, followed by another prayer, and occasionally a Children's Silent Prayer. A hymn is then sung, and an address of about twenty minutes given, when another hymn is sung, and prayer offered, which closes the first meeting and which lasts an hour.

The earnest and anxious children are now invited to remain to what is called the "Conversational Meeting," and during the dismissal of the other children and the arranging of the forms and desks, two or three hymns are sung. The children are formed into classes; or, better still, Christian friends and teachers present gather them into little groups. A few words are generally spoken by the superintendent, impressing upon the children the solemnity of the meeting, and also encouraging them to decide for Jesus; a short prayer follows, and then the teachers and friends strive to set Christ before the chil-

dren as a present Saviour, and if possible speak with them separately, which is easily managed by calling them one by one a little distance out of the class. This is indeed a blessed opportunity for the teachers of the Sunday School to get at their children, and thus have quiet individual conversation and prayer for the Holy Spirit, so necessary in leading them to that Saviour who has said "Suffer little children to come unto me."

It was not until about twelve to eighteen months ago that we were able to properly organise this second meeting, for the simple reason that we could not get helpers, and many teachers are not awake to the opportunity afforded them of speaking to the children they teach in the Sunday School. We are, however, deeply thankful to say that we have now more helpers; the Lord has so greatly blessed the work, that many of our elder scholars have been led by the Holy Spirit to give their hearts to Jesus, and are thus enabled to speak to others; and it is indeed a very interesting and encouraging sight to see them in these classes telling the younger ones how they "found Jesus," and that he is just as willing and able to save them. From time to time many dear children have in this way, by God's blessing, been led to give themselves to the Saviour; and we have instituted what is called a "Children's Christian Association," which now numbers sixty-six members, and whilst the earnest and seeking children are being spoken to and prayed with, all the members of the Christian Association present are gathered into one large class by themselves, and a little food for their souls is given, accompanied with a few words of encouragement and exhortation, and by this means those who are loving the Saviour are watched over, and those who are seeking are helped. This meeting lasts about half an hour, and is closed with a hymn and prayer. When time permits an occasional Prayer Meeting is held after this, and many of the elder scholars take the opportunity of beseeching the Lord for those who are outside the fold, and for strength and guidance for themselves and teachers, and also for the conversion of their parents.

A Thursday Evening Service is held every week to connect Sunday with Sunday, as many of the children love the Sunday evening meeting so much that they say it is too long to wait until the Sunday comes round. The average number who attend this meeting is about 50, and the Sunday evening meeting has an average attendance of about 200. It is well for one gentleman to take the superintendence of these meetings, and always to be present.

Many of the dear children often have to leave the town to go to situations and otherwise, and we always make a point of corre-

sponding with them, and also with any who like to write to us, who are still attending the meetings. By this means we get to know them better, and often receive some very encouraging letters. The following is from a dear girl who fell asleep in Jesus last November:—"Dear Sir,— . . . . I am very happy to say that I am living to Jesus, and to him alone; I love Jesus because he suffered on the tree for me, and I love him because he first loved me. I am helpless, and he is my helper.

'I'm a poor sinner, and nothing at all,
But Jesus Christ is my all in all.'

And I can truly say that I am saved through believing on the work that Christ has done, and I am happier now than ever I was in my life. I have found out that faith in Christ will save me . . .— Ellen S——."

A memento has been placed up in the school in remembrance of Ellen S——. It has been very neatly executed, and the children subscribed the money to defray the cost. The verse of Scripture, "Therefore be ye also ready," was one of the last written by Ellen S——, and it was shown to us by her parents when visiting them just after her death.

Should this little account aid Ragged School teachers in carrying on Sunday Morning or Evening Services for their children, the object of bringing before our readers the Sunday and Thursday evening doings of the West Greenwich Ragged School will be fully accomplished.

J. W. J.

EXHIBITION OF WORK BY RAGGED SCHOOL SCHOLARS.

King Edward Street, Mile End.

Some few months since the superintendent and teachers of the King Edward Street Ragged School put before their scholars the desirability of at once beginning to make some articles, and when finished to bring them to the schoolroom for the purpose of being seen and examined by the teachers, parents, and their fellow-scholars. The effort to produce something of their own make would be beneficial to those thus employed, and though they might not all succeed to the same extent, yet a commencement to exercise what little skill they had would be made, and then by comparing each other's work when grouped they would have the opportunity to find out how they could

improve when they tried to make another article for another exhibition.

That encouragement might be general, all articles presented were accepted, and during the Christmas time, when the room was vacated by the Day School, the articles were displayed. On the last day of the old year, the day of our visit, there were more than 500 visitors. The room was tastefully decorated by banners, paper flowers and streamers, and evergreens. There were also mottoes on the walls, among which we noticed, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;" "Upward, onward, heavenward;" "Self-conquest is the highest form of victory." The centre of the room was occupied by a spacious counter, on which was ranged and partially classified the articles on view—the handiwork of eighty-three youthful exhibitors. The whole of the articles had been received under the following four conditions:—

1. That all articles be delivered at the school-house on or before the 23rd of December, 1873, with the name and address of the exhibitor attached to each article.

2. That all articles sent in for exhibition must be the work of the exhibitor. The Committee reserve for themselves the right of testing exhibitors.

3. That girls' hats and bonnets for exhibition must be delivered in bandboxes, or they will not be received.

4. That all articles be taken away by the owners the day after the exhibition.

Among the *articles of furniture* that were prominent for the skill and finish were three chairs. (*a*) For dining-room: mahogany, stuffed seat covered with horsehair. (*b*) Workman's parlour chair, with cane bottom. (*c*) A hall chair, wood bottom. A kitchen table with flaps on hinges, and drawer, complete. A mangle, in working order, with fly-wheel. A loo table, inlaid with 2,259 separate pieces of coloured wood, on a pillar, with four claws. To show the process of the work of inlaying the parti-coloured wood, the top of another table was shown with the work unfinished.

There was quite a group of *models of buildings*, the chief of which was one in wood of the Albert Street Ragged School, now certified as an Industrial School for 100 girls, showing the main building in front, of three floors, with the laundry, infirmary, and playground in the rear, with girls at work and play; another of the King Edward Street Ragged School — the building in which the exhibition was held. Others were made of cardboard. (*a*) A village of eleven buildings, including church, windmill, &c. (*b*) A model farm in glass case, with farmhouse, yard, and animals. (*c*) A butcher's shop, with thirty joints

and carcases. (*d*) A poulterer's shop. (*e*) A fishmonger's shop. (*f*) A railway station, with rails and carriages. (*g*) A farm, with men thrashing, and a water-mill, the men and mill ingeniously made to work by silver-sand pouring from hoppers to be seen only at the back.

Among the *toys* were noticed a cart and horse, on wheels made of wood, and soft toys. Then there were some sweet toys made of sugar—one a man's hat, the other a woman's market-basket.

Needlework had also had attention, and some of it was very good, among which were prominent an antimacassar with two rows of raised flowers, eight in a row; a suit of miniature boy's clothing, as a specimen of tailoring; some wool-work, and doll-dressing. It would be well if children were induced to dress dolls *as children should be when properly dressed.* The clothes for day and night, indoor and outdoor, should be of an improved cut, and of good work—that is, the best work the child can give. The child would then be learning something that would in time be made available for the benefit of itself and others. It is unwise for the dolls of poor children to be dressed in the tawdry style of the ball-room. The attempts at stocking darning and mending were very creditable.

The last, but not least, of the exhibits were some shoe and clothes brushes, the work, strange to say, of one of the girls.

With a view to encourage present and intending exhibitors, the committee decided to award prizes to those who had shown most skill, ingenuity, patience, and industry. The prizes consisted of writing-desks for the boys, and of workboxes for the girls. The whole exhibition was very creditable to the children, and must have been pleasing to the teachers.

THE LITTLE TRAMP.

One dark November morning, a missionary, hearing that there were lodgers at the top of a miserable dwelling in Paradise Court, Ipswich, made his way up to that part of the house. In reply to his knock, the door was opened by a woman who was partly intoxicated, and whose appearance denoted that she sifted upon the dust-heaps. She refused a tract that was offered to her, saying it was no good to eat; but when told of the true bread, she opened the door wider, and looking towards a bundle of rags said, "You can talk to my girl, who is very bad, as I am going out," and then she staggered downstairs.

The visitor approached the rags, upon which lay a little girl of eleven years. She partly raised herself as if to look at the stranger, and then sank back as if exhausted with the effort. The room was a

wretched dwelling, filthy in the extreme, with scarcely a vestige of furniture, unless the two boxes that served for seats, and the planks placed across pieces of wood which served for a table, could be dignified by that name. In one corner was a pile of old kettles without spouts, and saucepans without handles or lids. In the fireplace, which was without a fender, was a tinker's hand-fire, a saucepan with round holes at the side, and a wire handle. In different parts of the room were little heaps of dirty rags, bottles and grease pots. All this showed that the occupant was a travelling tinker, who had been stopped in his progress by the illness of the child, and that his wife had obtained work upon a dust-heap, from which she brought worn-out tin-ware for her husband to "doctor up" and sell again to the poor.

After giving the little sufferer time to recover from the excitement of his presence, the missionary, taking hold of her emaciated hand, said: "I have come to talk to you about Jesus, and to pray with you," and after a little pause inquired how long she had lived there, and if she could say the Lord's Prayer. In reply, the child, panting at intervals for breath, in a low, hollow tone said: "For four or five Sundays, sir, I was ill, and we had to sleep under a hedge, which made me worse, and then we tramped on here, and the doctor has been to see me, and says he cannot do much for me, as I am getting thin and can't eat;" and then, raising herself upon her arm, her eyes lighting up with a supernatural brightness, "I can't say all that prayer, but I can say the pretty hymn which is in the book under my head. I can't read, but I know it's there," and then the colour of her cheek deepened as she opened the "Penny Hymn Book" and repeated the first two verses of the hymn,—

> "Come, let us join our cheerful songs,
> With angels round the throne;"

and then she threw herself back as though exhausted, but her face assumed an expression of intense happiness.

After a few minutes the question was asked, "And how did you learn that hymn?"

"A little girl at the tramps' lodging at Ipswich," she replied, "went to the Ragged School and took me with her for three Sundays. The lady saw I was ill, and kissed me, and told me how to say that hymn, and it makes me so happy; and I am going to Him soon," she whispered, gazing up with evident delight.

"You must not talk any more, dear," said the visitor, but I will now pray to Jesus, and ask him to make you very good now, and then to take you to be with him in glory."

"Ask him," whispered the child, "to make father and mother good: they get drunk and frighten me so, and say such bad words." The request was complied with, and He who hath told his disciples to ask that they may receive, was petitioned to bless the child and save the parents.

A few necessaries were that evening sent for the child, and two days after the missionary again ascended that dark staircase. He did so with pleasure, because he felt that in that dismal room there was a little one who loved the Saviour, and who would soon be called to his presence and personally blessed by him. The door was opened by the mother, who burst into tears and turned away. Upon glancing towards the bed of rags, the visitor was startled at seeing a small elm coffin in place of the child, and inquired when she had died. "Late in the night when you were here," the mother replied, sobbing. "She was in great pain, and sat up in the bed, and took out her little book, and said the hymn she was so fond of—

'Come, let us join our cheerful songs,
With angels round the throne;'

and then her cough came on, and she fell back in the bed, and died like a lamb."

While they were speaking, the father, a low-looking tramp, came in, and the missionary told them of the child's request, that he would pray for them that they might be made good. Both of them cried with intense feeling, and then they knelt beside the little coffin, while earnest prayer was offered up for their salvation. That evening and for several months after they attended the meeting held in a widow's room near them, and before they left the place for a settled life, not as tramps, the man gave proofs of his reformation, and the woman that she had believed to the saving of her soul.

Hints for Teachers.

EVERY-DAY ERRORS.

PART I.

THERE are many ways in which powerful influences and lasting impressions are made on the minds of the young, but there are only two certain results of their operation: they must produce either *good* or *evil*.

We propose to examine some of these influences, which may with propriety be termed "Every-day Errors," with the view, if possible, of enabling earnest or feeble, but unsuccessful workers in Sunday

Ragged Schools, to gather encouragement alike; also to rectify those mistakes so constantly being made, which truly constitute a pulling down with one hand that which has been built up with the other. Few teachers are aware of the many influences belonging to them, or the power that is exerted upon the minds of their scholars by some of their simplest manners, habits, or words, and no wonder they are so frequently puzzled to account for results so contrary to their wishes.

I. CLASS MANAGEMENT.

In a number of classes it is rare to find many properly conducted. Some of the children are probably sitting too far from the teacher, engaged in some burlesque with each other while one stumbles through a simple passage of Scripture; or if any oral communication is being made, it is only communicated to one or two of the nearest. Occasionally they are seen crowding upon a lady teacher, drawing their hands over the fur which sets off the mantle, playing with her gold chain, or conversing with each other about the style of her apparel. There is little or no attempt to engage the attention of the children; a mechanical or automatic manner of speaking or reading is probably pursued, which fails to entertain them, and the result is total failure.

When the teacher really knows the extent of power he or she possesses, there is no possibility of hiding it. The quality is as patent as the noonday sun, and the evidences are generally a well ordered, *quiet* class, ready with satisfactory answers to plain and reasonable queries; a lively approbation of the teacher's will; usually good attendance; no evading of lessons, but a general desire for improvement. It may happen, indeed frequently, that a dull or careless boy is passed into the class of this kind of teacher, but he seldom remains long as such; the better qualities are sooner or later brought out, and he assumes more of the uniform character of the whole under the kindly influences exerted upon him. We have in our recollection many such instances.

A teacher engaged in our Sunday School brought up a troublesome boy with the statement:—"I can't do anything with this boy, sir; he is so naughty and wicked, no one *can* manage him here."

It was not a time to put the teacher right; the unguarded admission of all absence of proper control was fatal, but it must then pass; so, turning to the boy, we quietly said,—

"Indeed! surely there is some mistake. What is your name, my man?" for the moment forgetting it.

"Tommy Jones," said he, in a spirited manner, which was the evidence of mettle.

"Well, Tommy Jones, let us see how you and I can get along; you do not want to be a *bad* boy, do you?"

"No, sir, I'm sure I don't."

"But you cannot help it, I suppose; is not that it, Tommy?"

"Yes, sir, I can't help it," and his eyes twinkled mischievously.

"But you know, Tommy, we must always try to help it; it is no use saying we can't do a thing, when we don't try. It will not be good for us to be constantly in fun and frolic, for that teaches us no good. You will be a man some day, we

hope, and then find that nonsense will not get your living. Before that happens you have a great deal to learn, and the sooner we begin the better; so let us sit down and have a little class by ourselves, and perhaps we *shall* learn something. We may also show people we are not so bad as we seem; let us try, at all events."

Tommy was at once delighted; his confidence was won, and we sat down apart from the other classes and commenced our task.

The story of Samuel and Eli was selected, which was read slowly and impressively, interrupted frequently in order to examine and cross-examine him upon what he had heard. At the close, re-examination followed, and his answers were prompt and pointed. He was entertained and instructed, and, at the close, expressed himself satisfactorily as having "had a class all alone." After promising to amend, his teacher was asked to receive him back, but after entering the class he was as bad as ever, but always manageable out of it.

From one to another he was passed, but the reports were always the same, and it was seriously debated by the teachers whether it would not be best to dismiss him altogether. We dared not listen to this, but counselled them to study his character and appropriate treatment.

Shortly a new teacher was admitted, who gladly took charge of Tommy, in whose hands he was moulded and became the best and quickest boy in the school.

II. IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE.

Many erroneously believe that an amount of Bible knowledge will at once enable them to become teachers. Yet the mere possession of knowledge does not confer the power of imparting it. It is true we must learn before we can teach; but is there not frequently great difficulty in sending home to the hearts and minds of others our own exact ideas of things, even when we know them well? This is particularly the case where children have to be dealt with. As a rule, we soar high above their heads: we do not descend to their language and ideas. Our tone and manner is too lofty, and frequently we exercise far greater power than is judicious or profitable. The child is not instructed, he is not even entertained, and he becomes careless, and probably degenerates, with others in the class, into a noisy and unmanageable group.

We recently witnessed such a class, which has been under the care of a young teacher some time. He is constantly lamenting the inattention and insubordination of his boys. They learn literally nothing, and he is disheartened, yet plods on, but unsuccessfully, as on the day when he took charge and lost control of his class. Occasionally the class, in his absence, falls to the lot of another teacher, who makes his power felt in the simplest words, and reduces the boys to excellent discipline. The usual teacher is not harsh or unkind, but there is a want of earnestness and zeal, or fire and animation, when most required. If he reads there is no difference, whether it be poetry or prose. If he tells a useful story, there is no point shown, and he would have as great effect if he read it in Latin or Greek. The boys are not interested, because they do not see he is; they do not think he means what he says

when he threatens, or care to know what he means when he says anything. He has no illustration ready to help when needed, and can adopt no other language than that of the book he is using. Thus the work of the class becomes tedious and monotonous to the boys; and not uncommonly one or more have their attention drawn to the subject taught by an adjoining teacher, or they slyly steal away altogether, and leave him for the more pleasing and attractive lesson.

S. R. H. S.

Children's Page.

A RAGGED SCHOOL HERO.

THE children of the rich have very little idea of the sufferings of the poor in various parts of London. The following true sketch will give them some idea of the truth.

Upon one of my visits to the various Ragged Schools of the metropolis I became very much interested in a lad of about eleven years of age, with a frank, open countenance. He was dirty, and dressed in a suit of rags. He was reading busily in his Testament, and would stop occasionally and ask such curious questions of his teacher that I could but smile. His practical observations on certain portions of Scripture, if clothed in eloquent language, would have done honour to men of learning. There was a free-heartedness in him that gleamed out through all his rags and dirt, and I sat down by him to ask him some questions.

"Where do you live, and how?" I asked.

"I live where I can," he replied, "and almost how I can."

"But," said I, "what do you do for a living?"

"I am a watercress boy," he replied, "and get up every morning at two o'clock and go three or four miles, and sometimes six or eight, to buy some watercresses. I get a basket of them for a shilling, and by crying them the whole day generally clear another shilling, which pays my board and lodging."

"But can you live and pay rent out of a shilling a day?" I asked.

"Yes, pretty well; but many times I don't make a shilling, and then I buy some bread and go to sleep under one of the arches of London Bridge, or in some crate or box down on the wharves."

Just then the superintendent came along, and as I took his arm he said,—

"The lad you have been talking with comes every night to learn to read; and although he cannot get to sleep before ten o'clock, and is obliged to be up at two in the morning, yet he is always punctual. Not long since his mother was imprisoned for arrears in rent—the sum needed was thirty shillings. Well, this poor boy almost starved himself, and slept out of doors night after night to save the money out of his scanty earrings to release her from prison."

I went back and talked with the boy, for in my eyes he was a truer hero than a Wellington or a Nelson.

ELLA.

LIVING SUNBEAMS.

"If I were a sunbeam,
I know what I'd do,
I would seek white lilies
Rainy woodlands through.
I would steal among them!
Softest light I'd shed,
Until every lily
Raised its drooping head.

If I were a sunbeam,
I know where I'd go;
Into the lowliest hovels,
Dark with want and woe;
Till sad hearts looked upward,
I would shine and shine!
Then they'd think of heaven,
Their sweet home and mine."

Art thou not a sunbeam,
Child, whose life is glad
With the inner radiance
Sunshine never had?
Oh, as God hath blessed thee,
Scatter rays divine!
For there is no sunbeam,
But must die or shine.

LUCY LARCOM.

Ragged School Union.

THE monthly meeting of the Managing Committee was held on January 9th. In accordance with the custom of many years, the first hour of the meeting was devoted to praise for past successes, and to earnest prayer for the work and the workers during the present year.

The receipts for December, 1873, were reported to be £305 15s. 6d., and the payments to be £256 6s. 2d.

Quarterly grants amounting to £142 7s. 6d. were voted to twenty schools. Grants amounting to £6 were also paid for school materials in three schools.

The receipt of a legacy of £250, less legacy duty, from the late John White, Esq., was reported.

The two Schools Agents presented their Annual Reports, in which they reported their labours, and reviewed the operations of the schools under their visitation during the past year.

The annual grant of Wentworth Street School, Spitalfields, was increased to £31 10s.

A special grant of £10 was voted to the school in Ingram Place, Hornsey Road, towards current expenses.

A grant of books to the value of £2 was voted to the Scholars' Reading-room attached to the school in Charles Street, Drury Lane.

A special grant of £10 was voted towards the general expenses of the school in Mildmay Avenue.

It was resolved to convene a special meeting of paid teachers and local officials at Field Lane School on Wednesday evening, February 25th, in connection with Mr. Proudman's last Lecture on the Tonic Sol-fa system to Ragged School teachers.

Applications for grants from West Greenwich, Horseferry Road, Lower Park Road, and Notting Dale Schools, were read, and will be considered next month.

Correspondence.

CLASS OF SCHOLARS IN RAGGED SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

Sir,—Some persons seem to think that the dress of some children in Ragged Schools shows that they are not fit objects for a free Day School. But they appear to forget that very many, especially girls, owe their neat appearance solely to the Clothing Clubs attached to Ragged Schools.

I find on referring to the last Annual Report of the Ragged School Union that there are fifty-seven such Clothing Clubs; and most Day Schools in addition are aided by gifts of clothing. This *must* tend to habits of neatness, and thus to alter the aspect of the scholars. If not, would not your Clothing Clubs have failed in their praiseworthy objects?

Still, in a day when Ragged Schools are exposed to so much criticism, the teachers and managers cannot be too particular in adopting every check to the admission of the wrong class. This has just been admirably effected by the Committee of Turk's Row Ragged School, Chelsea, by the issue of a printed form of admission. As the questions which the parents have to answer seem wisely framed to restrict the Day School to really needy children, I trust that you will print them in full, in order that others may be led to imitate so good an example.

The following are the questions:—

"Name of child; age; name and address of parents. What is the father's occupation? What are his earnings? Does the mother go out to work? How many children are there? What are their ages? What school has the child been to? What was the cause of leaving? Has an application been made to the guardians for payment of school fees? What was the result of such application? Signature of parent. The above statement is correct to the best of my knowledge. Signed, ——, Vicar or Curate of ——". I am, &c.,

A. B. C.

RAGGED SCHOOL COAL CLUBS.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

SIR,—I was pleased to read in your Facts and Scraps that Coal Clubs are connected with some Ragged Schools. At a time when coals are scarcely obtainable by the poor, something ought to be done to enable them to buy fuel at a reasonable price. The Coal Clubs seem to meet this want admirably. May I ask what are the rules of such clubs? Any other information would be serviceable, and might stimulate others to form Coal Clubs as a part of their Ragged School work.

Trusting that the New Series of your Magazine will be as useful as the old one, I remain, your obedient servant,

Jan. 2nd. AN OLD RAGGED SCHOOL TEACHER.

[Our correspondent will find a sketch of the Ragged School Coal Clubs and Depôts in the first article of this number.—ED.]

Facts and Scraps.

GRAY'S YARD RAGGED SCHOOL.—On the first Sunday morning of the new year this school gave a meat breakfast to above 800 men and women, mostly from casual wards. It was followed by a service, in which several earnest practical addresses were given. The cost was defrayed by special donations.

NOTTING DALE RAGGED SCHOOL.—This Night School has just been reorganised under an influential committee of residents in the district. In addition, a Day Industrial School has been opened for destitute boys. Twenty boys are engaged in wood-chopping.

NOEL STREET RAGGED SCHOOL.—A Night School for male costermongers has been opened. It is attended twice a week by twenty-five, very few of whom could read or write. It is taught solely by voluntary teachers.

PARK WALK RAGGED SCHOOL.—This Night School is planted near the notorious Cremorne Gardens, Chelsea. It is managed solely by a large staff of earnest voluntary teachers. In accordance with the annual custom, a supper of roast beef and plum-pudding, served hot, was given to seventy of the most regular attendants, on Friday, January 16th. They were all lads above thirteen years of age. The bulk were of the original regular Ragged School type.

PERKINS' RENTS RAGGED SCHOOL.—Among the many offshoots of this valuable school may be mentioned the "Westminster Buildings," in Old Pye Street. This building, which accommodates sixty-one families, has been occupied about seven years. It has well answered the purpose for which it was erected, viz., that of enabling the industrious poor to have two and three comfortable rooms for the same rent as they had often to pay for one, the rents ranging from 1s. 9d. for a single room, 3s. for two rooms, and 4s. 3d. for three rooms. There are fireplaces in every

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NOEL STREET RAGGED SCHOOL.—A Night School for male costermongers has been opened. It is attended twice a week by twenty-five, very few of whom could read or write. It is taught solely by voluntary teachers.

PARK WALK RAGGED SCHOOL.—This Night School is planted near the notorious Cremorne Gardens, Chelsea. It is managed solely by a large staff of earnest voluntary teachers. In accordance with the annual custom, a supper of roast beef and plum-pudding, served hot, was given to seventy of the most regular attendants, on Friday, January 16th. They were all lads above thirteen years of age. The bulk were of the original regular Ragged School type.

PERKINS' RENTS RAGGED SCHOOL.—Among the many offshoots of this valuable school may be mentioned the "Westminster Buildings," in Old Pye Street. This building, which accommodates sixty-one families, has been occupied about seven years. It has well answered the purpose for which it was erected, viz., that of enabling the industrious poor to have two and three comfortable rooms for the same rent as they had often to pay for one, the rents ranging from 1s. 9d. for a single room, 3s. for two rooms, and 4s. 3d. for three rooms. There are fireplaces in every

room, and a washhouse on the top of the building, with a plentiful supply of water. The cost of the ground, which is freehold, and the entire building, including the Labourers' Club, was upwards of £9,000. Towards this the late Marquis of Westminster kindly lent the trustees £7,500, on mortgage on the building at 3 per cent. The dwelling-house is self-supporting, but the overplus from the rents is so trifling that the prospect of paying off the mortgage is very remote indeed, as last year the cost of painting the entire building was over £170.

SERMON LANE RAGGED SCHOOL.—On the first Sunday morning of the new year a special service was held in this school. It was largely attended by the poor of the district. Breakfast was given to the half-starved attendants at the close of the service.

MR. PROUDMAN'S LECTURES.—These lectures to Ragged School teachers on the Tonic Sol-fa system were resumed, after the Christmas recess, at Field Lane School on January 14th. In order to show the results of these lectures the Committee of the Ragged School Union have resolved to convene a meeting of paid teachers and officials at the above school on Wednesday evening, Feb. 25th.

FUEL FOR THE POOR.—Dr. Whitmore, the medical officer for Marylebone, says that "there is reason to fear that diseases of the respiratory organs will become more than usually fatal during the present winter; and I come to this conclusion because of the present high price of coals and the certainty of their being dearer as the season advances. Without the means of resisting cold, children and aged persons will necessarily be liable to attacks of bronchitis and pneumonia; and should the winter be severe, of which there are already indications, the mortality from these and kindred diseases will be very great. I venture to suggest for the consideration of the wealthy and benevolent that no better direction can be given at the present time to their charitable efforts than the providing fuel to the poor and destitute." The question has become such a pressing one, that Mr. Reed, C.B., thinks the time has arrived "for the Government to interpose to avert the terrible fuel famine which threatens us," and suggests the purchase of the coal mines by the nation.

INSANITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.—The twenty-seventh annual report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, just issued, shows that the total number of lunatics, idiots, and persons of unsound mind in England and Wales registered on January 1 last, was 60,296, being an increase of 1,656 upon that of January 1, 1872. The total of 60,296 consists of 7,023 private patients, and 53,273 paupers—the increase during the year having been among the former, 381; and among the latter, 1,275; total, 1,656. The increase of the year 1871 upon that of 1870 was 1,885, represented by 188 additional private patients, and 1,697 paupers.

ROMANISM AND CRIME.—The population of the town of Liverpool, according to the last census, was 493,346, of which about 150,000 are Roman Catholics. From the report of the Rev. Mr. Nugent, the Romish chaplain, it appears that in 1864, 4,092 Protestants were committed to the Liverpool Gaol, and 5,821 Roman Catholics. And this in a town where the Protestant population is more than double the Roman Catholic portion. And now, from the above return of the 21st April, 1873, it would appear that in 1872, 4,690 Protestants only were committed to the Borough Prison, Liverpool, but 9,022 Roman Catholics: so that, whilst the population is 2 to 1 Protestant, the commitments are 2 to 1 Roman Catholic. These figures show an extraordinary increase in the number of Romish prisoners since the year 1864, and utterly out of proportion to the increase in the population.

TWENTY-FIFTH CLAUSE OF THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT.—Sir Francis Sandford, in response to an order of the

the House of Commons, has drawn up a return giving a full account of the actual use made of the 17th and 25th clauses by all the School Boards of England and Wales in the year 1872. There are in England and Wales fifty-one School Boards in boroughs, and two hundred and eighty in rural districts—a total of 331 School Boards which have not found it necessary either to pay fees or to remit them. On the other hand, there are forty-three School Boards—less than one-tenth of the whole number—which have acted on the permission given in the 25th clause, and paid fees in denominational schools. There are ten boroughs in England and one in Wales in which the fees in Board Schools have been remitted under the 17th clause; the number of rural School Boards which have acted on the clause are thirty-six in England and nineteen in Wales. In the boroughs the amount paid under the 25th clause varies from £2,471 in Manchester to five-and-eightpence at Stockton-on-Tees.

WATER SUPPLY.—The *Parochial Critic* says that the constant system of water-supply by the use of waste-preventers in the poorer districts of Whitechapel, continues to give great satisfaction. There are now 165 waste-preventers, seven new ones having been erected during the Christmas quarter, supplying about 1,230 houses. The regulations (about thirty-three in number) made under the Metropolis Water Act, 1871, respecting the necessary fittings for preventing undue consumption or contamination of water, having been confirmed by the Board of Trade, are now in force.

Notices of Meetings.

BREWER'S COURT, DRURY LANE.

At an interesting special meeting a new year's gift was given to ninety-eight of those who regularly attend the Sunday Evening Services of this Ragged Church. It consisted of 1 cwt. of coals, ¼ lb. of tea, and a 4lb. loaf; and to thirty of the most deserving a warm under garment. They were distributed by the wife of the gentleman (a committeeman of the Ragged School Union) who has conducted for the last seventeen years the Evening Services in connection with this Ragged School. He is assisted by a friend, who kindly undertakes the leading of the singing on Sunday evening.

We trust many who attend these services have been awakened by the influence of God's Holy Spirit, and others have obtained spiritual instruction on their road heavenwards. Thankfulness and gratitude were expressed by the recipients.

We should be glad to see such meetings multiplied tenfold, for the majority who attend these services but for such opportunities would scarcely ever hear the glad tidings of salvation.

JOHN STREET, KINGSLAND.

On Tuesday, January 7th ult., a "Service of Song" took place at the schoolroom of this institution, at John Street, Shacklewell Lane, which was illustrative of "Bunyan's Holy War." The room still bore the embellishments of Christmastide, which were tastefully arranged in pretty devices, while mottoes and flags still further enlivened the scene. The entertainment comprised

no less than eighteen sacred songs, which were linked together with descriptive readings by Mr. T. Lidstone, showing how the goodly town of Mansoul was taken. The musical portion was exceedingly well executed, under the skilful superintendence of Mr. Hoon, and elicited at times great applause. The large troupe of singers—all scholars in the Ragged School—who crowded the platform exerted themselves to the uttermost, and succeeded, as they deserved to do, for it had taken them many weeks in preparation before venturing to appear in public. Mr. Lidstone's reading was very effective, and merited the approbation it received.

At the close of the Service of Song, Mr. Hoon presented prizes to seven of the pupils for their regular attendance at the musical classes. That gentleman was then taken by surprise, for Mr. Lidstone appeared with a large parcel under his arm, and informed the audience that even the little ones of the singing class could keep a secret, and he then, on behalf of the instructed, presented to the instructor a very handsome photographic album. The receipt astonished Mr. Hoon, who acknowledged it with manifest difficulty.

The large room was crowded with an attentive audience, who testified to the pleasure they had received from these well-trained ragged scholars with repeated rounds of applause.

OLD PYE STREET, WESTMINSTER.

The thirteenth anniversary of the Working Men's Club connected with Perkins' Rents Ragged School was held in the clubroom in Old Pye Street. Sir R. W. Carden presided.

From the report it appeared that the Penny Bank is open three nights a week. Paid in during the year, £60 0s. 2d.; withdrawn, £67 7s. 5d.; in the treasurer's hands, £13 12s. 7d. The Enrolled Labour Loan Society is held on Wednesday nights. There are 54 shareholders; capital, £248 14s. 10d. It has lent to 98 members of the club £272 3s. 6d. at 5 per cent., without fines, &c. A dividend of 10 per cent. has been added on all paid-up shares. Balance in hand, £103 14s. 4d. The Temperance Society meets for business every Monday evening. Public meetings are held in this room on alternate Tuesday evenings, and every Saturday evening in the committee room. 142 pledges have been taken during the year, and eight members have received the sick pay from the fund formed by a payment of one penny per week. Balance in hand, £10. The Barrow Club was commenced in 1862. A barrow of the value of £2 15s. is furnished to a member who pays a shilling a week for the hire of it. At the end of 55 weeks it becomes his own property. Seven barrows, at a cost of £19 5s., have been supplied this year, making 96 since the commencement of the society. The Burial Society, formed by a subscription of ½d. a week, gives £4 to the relatives of a deceased member. The widow of a deceased member has this year received £4 for funeral expenses, and last year the demand of £12 was met by the little society. Balance in hand, £10 6s. 5d. The Boot Club had been started thirty-eight weeks ago, by subscriptions of 3d. weekly, during which £30 had been expended in providing the members with boots at 10s. 6d. per pair.

The meeting was addressed by Rev. S. Patterson, Dr. Ellis, Mr. George Cruikshank, Mr. Blaby, &c.

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Mr. CONGREVE can be consulted at his residence, Coombe Lodge, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Mornings only.

NEW CASES.—JANUARY, 1874.

CASE of a YOUNG LADY, REPORTED BY MISS B. BAMBER. Marlborough College, Exeter.

The patient was a pupil of Miss B., 18 years of age. Miss B. writes me as follows:—"She took a severe cold during the vacation, and was *speedily* REDUCED *to a mere skeleton*; with severe cough, loss of appetite, pains, and intense weakness. In a few weeks she was restored by use of your Balsam, to comparative health, and now anticipates returning to college. *The family doctor had pronounced her case hopeless.* Her mamma writes that she should feel it a duty to recommend your medicine far and wide. She does not wish her name printed, but mine being well known may have greater influence. I shall be pleased to bear my testimony.—Yours truly obliged, BESSIE BAMBER."

LETTER from Mr. JOEL EVERED, BRADFORD, TAUNTON.

This patient (who is now recommending my treatment to others in h's neighbourhood) relates the benefit he has received as follows:—"I took a bad cold in June, 1872, after being out in sixteen hours' rain. This brought on a severe cough. I ruptured a blood vessel in the lungs. I had advice and medicine from three doctors, but they did not touch the cough. A friend who had found much good from you then advised me to try your medicine. In ten days I found myself better. After two large bottles was able to do light work. I am thankful to say I can attend to my business now. You are welcome to make use of my name."

CASE of Mr. F. Y. SPROD, 40, OLD MARKET STREET, BRISTOL.

This patient applied to me about two years since,—(to use his own words), "*in a dreadful state*"—Cough, fearful expectoration, spitting of blood, pains, oppressed breathing, loss of appetite, wasting, &c. He continued under my treatment from Nov. to April of last year, and entirely recovered. Speaking of the benefit received, by the blessing of God, from my hands, he says:—"*Mine is a wonderful case.* It has astonished all my friends. I have lent your book far and near. I should be very pleased to answer any enquiries as to my case." In a letter just received (Dec. 4, 1873) he says, "Kindly send me some of your books to lend, for *I have persons frequently coming to me to know what did me so much good.*"

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Honest, Truthful Lads, from 14 to 17 years of age,

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CAN OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AT ONCE IN THE CITY MESSENGER BRIGADE.

Gentlemen connected with Ragged Schools, and interested in the welfare of special cases coming under the above description, will please desire the Lads to call with one or both parents any evening between 8 and 9 o'clock, at Hope Place Mission Schools, World's End, Bull Lane, Stepney.

Enquiry should be made for Mr. J. Hawkins, the Inspector of City Messenger Brigade.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR,

127, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, &c., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

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Mr. J. PROUDMAN is giving a course of EXPLANATORY LECTURES on the above System, to the Teachers in Ragged Schools, in Field Lane Schoolroom, on Wednesday evenings, commencing at 7.30 precisely, and closing at 9.15. Only persons having a knowledge of the Method can *now* join. Tickets for the Course to be had, by Teachers, One Shilling each, on application to Mr. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand.

SYLLABUS OF REMAINING LECTURES.

Feb. 4. On Children's Voices—How to treat them—How to teach them—On Causes of Flattening—Children's Music—Followed by Practice as before.

Feb. 11. On the "Minor"—The "Ray" and "Soh" Modes, &c.—Practice of the "Intermediate Rhythms," and Minor Mode Phrases.

Feb. 18. The Intermediate Certificate: what to do to get it—and Preparation and Practice for it—The Old Notation.

Feb. 25. Closing Lecture.—Oral Examination—The Application of the previous Lessons to the use of Schools—Concluding with Practice in Singing.

Opportunity will be given to any who may be prepared to take the Intermediate Certificate, upon application to Mr. Proudman.

General Tickets for the Course may be had of Mr. J. PROUDMAN, 3, Gordon Villas, Stoke Newington. Price 5s., P.O.O. or Stamps. Lesson Books, 6d.

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The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th December, 1873, to the 19th of January, 1874, inclusive :—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
A. B., per J. Spawforth, Esq.	1	1	0
Acworth, N. B., Esq.	2	2	0
Ames, The Misses	1	0	0
Allbut, Mrs.	1	0	0
Arden, Hon. Miss	5	0	0
Austen, Mrs. H.	2	2	0
Bacchus, Mrs.	3	3	0
Balmain, Rev. W.	1	0	0
Balmain, Miss	1	0	0
Bennington, Mrs.	1	1	0
Bosanquet, Rev. R. W.	2	0	0
Boyton, F. R., Esq.	1	1	0
Brandt, Miss	1	1	0
Brice, A. A., Esq.	2	0	0
Bristowe, S. B., Esq., M.P.	1	1	0
Bromfield, Miss E.	1	0	0
Brooker, T., Esq.	1	1	0
Bryan, Mrs	5	0	0
Campbell, Miss	2	0	0
Carroll, Mrs. M.	0	2	0
Catt, Miss	1	1	0
Challis, J. Henry, Esq.	10	0	0
Chandless, H., Esq.	5	0	0
Clulow, Rev. J.	1	1	0
Colebrook, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Collett, Miss	0	10	0
Collyer, Mrs., and late John Collyer, Esq.	2	2	0
Cow, P. W., Esq., Per (Part proceeds of sale of work at Immanuel Church School, Streatham Common)	31	10	0
Croft, Charles, Esq.	1	1	0
C. T.	25	0	0
Darval, J. B., Esq.	5	0	0
Daw, S. J., Esq.	1	1	0
Derby, Jan. 5th	0	10	0
Douglas, Sir R. P.	0	10	6
Drake, Mr.	1	0	0
Drake, Mrs.	0	10	0
Ducie, Earl	5	0	0
Eyre, H. R., Esq.	1	1	0
Farrow, T. R., Esq.	1	1	0
Fowler, Miss	2	2	0
Frankham, Miss (Sub.)	1	1	0
„ „ (Don.)	5	5	0
Friend, A	3	0	0
Gage, Anna	0	1	0
Gastineau, H.	0	10	6
Gellibrand, W. C., Esq.	5	0	0
Gibson, Mrs. W. C.	5	0	0
"God is Love"	0	7	0
Gordon, Dow. Lady Duff	2	2	0
Greenwood, Miss	1	1	0
Haines, E. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Harcourt, Egerton, Esq.	1	0	0
Harris, Henry, Esq.	1	1	0
Hayter, W. G., Esq.	1	1	0
Heales, Miss	1	1	0
Hemery, C., Esq.	2	2	0
Hill, Miss Julia	1	1	0
Holland, Rev. E.	3	3	0
Howard, Lady Fanny	1	1	0
Hyslop, Mrs H. G.	2	0	0
Jeffries Henry, Esq.	1	1	0
Jeffries, J. T., Esq.	1	1	0
Johnston, Miss	1	10	0
"Laid at the Lord's Feet"	5	0	0
Lake, James, Esq.	2	2	0
Lambert, Mrs. H.	2	2	0
Lancaster, T., Esq.	1	0	0
Langton, A., Esq.	0	5	0
Lawrence, Lord	10	0	0
Lefort, Miss A. (Coll.)	1	1	0
Lingham, Mrs.	1	0	0
Locke, George, Esq.	1	0	0
Locke, W., Esq.	1	0	0
Loft, Miss	0	10	0
Lush, Mrs.	1	0	0
Mackenzie, Mrs.	2	2	0
Marcon, Miss	1	0	0
Matthews, J., Esq.	1	1	0
McAll	4	0	0
McCall, Mrs.	1	0	0
Mills, Mark, Esq.	5	0	0
Moore, Miss	1	1	0
Mountstephen, R., Esq.	2	2	0
Newcome, Miss (Dec.)	1	0	0
Newcome, Miss C.	1	0	0
Newcome, Mrs. (Dec)	0	10	0
Ouston, W., Esq.	0	10	0
P. A. B.	5	0	0
Padday, Mrs.	1	1	0
Peart, Miss	2	2	0
Penley, Mrs. Colonel	2	0	0
Penoyre, Mrs.	1	0	0
Pond, Charles, Esq.	1	5	0
Portal, Miss	50	0	0
Power Bros., Messrs.	0	10	0
Prescott, Mrs.	3	0	0
Randall, Howell, & Co.	1	1	0
Rawlinson, W., Esq.	10	0	0
Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0
Roberts, The Misses	1	1	0
Robson, Mrs.	1	0	0
Robson, Miss	2	0	0
Rycroft, C. A. W., Esq.	10	0	0
Saunders, Mrs.	1	1	0
Savory, Joseph, Esq.	2	2	0
Sawyer, E. W., Esq. (Coll.)	5	15	0
Scott, Miss	1	1	0
Scott, Miss Alice	1	1	0
Shakerley, Dow. Lady	10	0	0
Sharp, Perrin, & Co., Missionary Society	4	0	0
Sherlock, C. E. S., Esq.	1	1	0
Slater, Rev. L.	2	0	0
Souter, Miss	1	0	0
Souter, Miss F.	1	0	0
Spawforth, J., Esq.	2	2	0
Staines, Henry, Esq.	1	1	0
Stanton, W., Esq.	1	1	0
Stanton, Mrs.	1	1	0
Steedman, Miss	5	0	0
Stephens, John, Esq.	1	1	0
Sterriker, W., Esq.	5	0	0
Stewart, P., Esq.	1	0	0
Stokes, Miss Mary	0	10	6
Taylor, Mrs.	1	0	0
"That we love one another" (Coll Box)	1	10	10
Trevelyan, Sir C. E.	5	0	0
Tucker, Joseph, Esq.	2	2	0
Vaux, Mrs (Dec.)	0	10	0
Vere, J., Esq.	25	0	0
Weston, Mrs.	2	0	0
White, Miss	6	0	0
Wigram, Rev. F. E.	2	10	0
Winter, Thos. M., Esq.	5	0	0
Wood, Rev. A., M.A.	2	2	0
Young Women's Bible Class, Ryde	1	0	0

School Fund.

Little Saffron Hill Dinner Fund.

Brandt, Miss	0	5	0
Brandt, Mr.	0	5	0
Edwards, Miss	0	19	10
J. S. S.	0	1	6
Lush, Mrs.	1	0	0
Lloyd, A. H., Esq.	2	2	0
Maxwell, T., Esq.	0	10	0
Naish, William Vandry	0	5	0
Newcome, The Misses	2	0	0
Wright, Mrs. W.	0	10	0

Field Lane.

Cremorne, Lady	2	0	0
Newcome, Miss	1	0	0
Wright, Mrs. W.	0	10	0

Lamb and Flag.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0
Miss Knight, per Miss Bodkin	0	10	0

The "Chichester."

Cremorne, Lady	2	0	0

York Mews.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0
Cremorne, Lady	2	0	0
Wright, Mrs. W.	0	10	0

Boross Street Dinner Fund.

A. T. H. B.	0	2	0
C. C. P.	0	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Clowes	0	5	0

Bacon Street.

Wright, Mrs. W.	1	1	0

Ragged Church and Chapel Union.

Wright, Mrs. W.	0	10	0

Fox Court.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0

Little Saffron Hill.

Shakerley, Dow. Lady	5	0	0
Wright, Mrs. W.	0	10	0
Wright, Mrs. W.	0	4	6

Exeter Buildings.

Moss, Miss	1	0	0

Bethnal Green.

Cremorne, Lady	2	0	0

Marylebone Court.

Cremorne, Lady	2	0	0

Boross Street.

A. B.	0	10	0

Cripples' Home.

Wright, Mrs. W.	0	10	0

Somers Town.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0
Shakerley, Dow. Lady	3	0	0

St. Giles' Girls' Refuge.

Wright, Mrs. W.	0	10	0

West Greenwich.

Shakerley, Dow. Lady	2	0	0

Grotto Passage.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0

Lisson Grove.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0

Ogle Mews.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0

Nichols Street.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0

Kensal Town.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0

Spicer Street.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0

Gray's Yard.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0

George Yard.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0

Fleet Ditch.

Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0

Weary Workers.

Bennington, Mrs.	0	10	6

Refuge Fund.

Bennington, Mrs.	0	10	6

Emigration Fund.

Wright, Mrs. W.	1	1	0

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